

REMARKS

At the time the Office Action issued, claims 1 – 32 were pending. The Office Action allowed claims 1, 6 – 7, 30 and 31. Claims 2 – 5, 29 and 32 were objected to. Claim 28 was rejected.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶2

The Office Action rejects claims 2 – 5, 28, 29 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Office Action goes on to specifically list the deficiencies of claims 2, 5, 28, 29 and 32.

Attorney has amended claims 2, 4, 28, 30 and 32 to address the deficiencies pointed out by the Examiner. Claim 29 was deleted. Attorney respectfully submits that all of the claims now meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Rejection of Claim 28 Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action rejected claim 28 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious in view of U.S. Patent 5,08,072 to Hawkins. However, the Examiner stated that claim 29 would be allowable once the §112, second paragraph rejections were overcome and that the limitations of all base and intervening claims were incorporated. Attorney has amended claim 28 to include the limitations of claim 29. Claim 28, as amended is patentable over the Hawkins '072 reference, as Hawkins '072 does not disclose a collar extending along the outer surface of the inner pipe from the top side of the centralizer, as required by amended claim 28. Accordingly, amended claim 28 is patentable over the cited art.

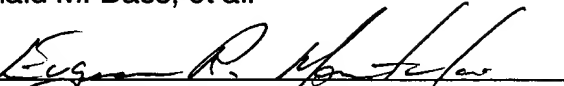
Conclusion

Attorney has responded to all bases for rejection of the claims and respectfully submits that the claims, as amended, are now in a state ready for allowance. In the event the Examiner has a question or there remain any open issues, the Examiner is

invited to call the undersigned at the number set forth below to discuss same in the advance of any written action.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments